

REMARKS

Claims 34-55 are pending in the present application. Claim 54 is amended to correct dependency from claim 53 to claim 52. The mistake in dependency was a typographical error and in no way introduces new matter into the application. Entry of the above amendment is earnestly requested. The favorable action of allowance of the pending claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

If there are any minor matters precluding allowance of the application which may be resolved by a telephone discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 36,623) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Mark J. Nuell
Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 36,623

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

KLR
DRN/KLR/jao
0020-4546P

VERSION TO SHOW MARKED CHANGES

54. A method for the detection of a target nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein comprising a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, 6, or 11 in a sample containing nucleic acids, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) contacting the nucleic acids with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 52 [53] under conditions suitable for hybridization, and
- (b) detecting a hybridization product.